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NECROLOGY.

LEWIS LINDSEY DYCHE.

GUY WEST WILSON.

THE subject of the present sketch, Prof. Lewis Lindsey Dyche, was born in Berkeley Springs, W. Va., March 20, 1857, of Scotch-Irish parentage. When he was three months old his father decided to remove to Kansas. The family came by boat to St. Joseph, Mo., and thence by ox team along the old Santa Fe trail to a point on the Wakarusa fifteen miles southwest of Topeka. Before their arrival at the new home the mother was taken very ill, and the babe was of necessity poorly attended. A band of Indians had their winter camp near the new home, and seeing the sad plight of the newcomers, took pity upon them. The women of the camp ministered to mother and babe, nursing the former back to health. Here the babe, the subject of this sketch, grew to young manhood. "With the precocity often seen in the pioneer life, he seemed to pass from infancy to manhood with no intervening period of boyishness or youth. All pleasures were combined with business. At the age of nine he was hunting and trapping along the Wakarusa. His playmates were his dogs; his playthings were the beasts and birds; his playgrounds were the woods and prairies and the camps of the Indians."[1] He was a lover of the open, an admirer of the wild life about him. In these early days he began to show the traits which were later to give him a place high in the ranks of American naturalists.

It is said that at the age of twelve he was unacquainted with the alphabet, and at sixteen was possessed of such scant learning that he was ashamed to show his ignorance in the village school. His educational progress was slow in the earlier years of his life, yet he attained an enviable eminence in later years. Finally he determined to secure an education. He had accumulated $600, with which he accordingly went to the State Normal School at Emporia, remaining for three

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[1] Edwords, Camp-fires of a Naturalist, p. 2.

L. L. Dyche.

years. He then went with a friend to Lawrence, where he entered the University in the fall of 1877, enrolling in the middle preparatory class. His companion and himself both felt the need of strict economy. They came to Lawrence in a covered wagon, which they located in the ravine near the present site of the museum building. Here they lived until the frost of winter drove them to the more protected shelter of a rooming house. From the date of his entrance as a student to the day of his death, in Topeka, on January 20, 1915, Professor Dyche was intimately associated with the University. He began his college course with a study of the classics, but his love of nature led him to take up the sciences as then taught. He completed his course and was graduated in 1884 with both the degree of bachelor of arts and bachelor of science. He immediately entered upon his graduate work, and in 1886 was granted the degree of master of arts and in 1888 that of master of science.

While at the University he studied under Professor Snow, and came in touch with Professor Mudge, of Manhattan, during summer expeditions. Little wonder that with his natural bent and in such surroundings he should develop into a naturalist with broad interests and a deep insight into nature which gave him the vision of a seer. Professor Dyche is spoken of as a man of strong personality, of likable disposition, and with determination which carried him successfully through many serious difficulties. He stood high in the world of science. There are many stories related of him which reveal a kindly heart and an unselfish interest in his fellows.

Professor Dyche was married October 4, 1884, to Miss Ophelia Axtell, of Sterling, Kan. His wife and four children survive him.

We are especially interested with the scientific and professional career of the subject of our sketch. In 1882, before his graduation from the University, he was appointed instructor in natural history. In 1888 he was advanced to a full professorship, his title being professor of anatomy and physiology, and taxidermist and curator of mammals, birds and fishes. Two years later zoölogy was added to his list of subjects. After 1892 physiology and anatomy were removed from his jurisdiction, and his time given entirely to the field which he occupied until his death, except that during the academic year 1899 he again taught anatomy. From now on the various changes in his title which appeared in the catalogue were merely matters of detail. At the close of his career his official title was professor of systematic zoölogy and curator of mammals, birds and fishes. He was a charter member of the Kansas chapter of Sigma Xi, fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and held membership in the American Ornithological Union, the Kansas Academy of Science, and the Biological Society of Washington.

The work of Professor Dyche covered a span of but little more than a generation in time, yet he left a monument which will endure as long as his University stands and learning attracts men. As a teacher his influence was felt by his students and associates. Coming to the University a poor country lad, he left as his monument one of the greatest collections of North American vertebrates, housed in the imposing building which bears his name. He was an explorer of no mean ability and accomplishment. In gathering materials for the University museum Professor Dyche, either on his own account or in company with others, made more than a score of expeditions. These led him into out-of-the-way places, where he faced privations and dangers, yet he saw only the results which he was achieving for his beloved University. He visited New Mexico, Colorado, the Cascades, British Columbia, northern Minnesota, Alaska, and finally the Arctic regions. He headed the expedition sent out in 1895 by the American Museum of Natural History, of New York City, to go in search of Peary, who was supposed to be lost in Greenland. He brought back rich spoils to the University, as well as rescuing the noted explorer.

In all the years which he devoted to the work of building up the University museum Professor Dyche showed a spirit of extreme devotion and self-sacrifice, his only object being to secure material for his institution. The specimens which he so generously brought to his alma mater would have commanded large sums of money had he been willing to sell them. So successful was he in his field of work that he had alluring offers to go elsewhere. To these he always turned a deaf ear, preferring to remain in his old haunts, even though it were at a great sacrifice.

On December 1, 1909, Professor Dyche was given partial leave of absence to accept the appointment of state fish and game warden. In making the appointment, the then governor, W. R. Stubbs, expressed the belief that he was bringing to this position the best qualified man in Kansas. That his judgment was well grounded was demonstrated by subsequent events. Professor Dyche had the training, the experience and the insight to make him especially well fitted to fill the position. Instead of merely accepting this as a matter of routine involving the issue of hunting licenses and the prosecution of offenders against the game laws of the state, he went to work with a will to make his department one of real benefit to Kansas. For several years previous to this appointment his work as a teacher had been limited to graduate students who were especially interested in his field of science or who wished to prepare themselves for museum work. From now on he did even less teaching, much of the time not even living in Lawrence. His influence in these years was probably greater upon the state at large, however, than it had been while a teacher.

When he assumed his duties as fish and game warden he found a most deplorable state of affairs. In his first biennial report he says that he had neither funds nor equipment; not even the reports of the fish and game wardens of other states. He fitted up a temporary laboratory in a buggy shed, equipping it with apparatus borrowed from the University, and for a working library he drew on his own library for some hundreds of volumes. He began in earnest the study of the problems of the fish and game resources of Kansas and their relation to the economy of the state. He had a vision, which he realized in part; and had his life not been cut short it would have been realized in a still larger measure. As it was he has left his indelible impression upon the state and nation for his work in the few short years which he was able to give to it. He began by seeking equipment not merely for the so-called practical work of his department, but for research work as well. The fish hatchery, with its magnificent equipment of laboratories and pools which he designed and constructed at Pratt, is a model for such institutions. Here he reared thousands of fish with which to stock the streams of Kansas. In this he saw a source of cheap and plentiful food. It was his wish that these laboratories might be made an adjunct to the University, and that the various departments which were interested in aquatic life might be given the full advantages of this equipment for their research work. Such a scheme would have resulted in great benefit to the state, as it would have brought to the laboratory a corps of trained research men who would have contributed largely to the subjects in hand without involving additional expense to the state.

The influence and accomplishments of Professor Dyche are best measured, not by his published works, but by the influence of those institutions which owe their existence to his creative genius. While his list of papers is not a long one, and perhaps the bibliography here appended is not complete, some of them exerted a great influence with the people at large. Perhaps it is well to mention in this connection two of these which appeared in bulletins of the department of fish and game. The first of these was originally published as three separate papers, and then later grouped into one, under the title of "Ponds, Pond Fish, and Pond Fish Culture." In this he gave a scheme of fish culture which was especially adapted to the state of Kansas. This publication has had wide currency, both in the state and among pisciculturists of other states. Had he lived to continue the educational work which he so ably began, much would have been accomplished for the fish industry in Kansas, a state which would not naturally be expected to produce a great commercial bulk of such products.

Another line which he attempted to stress was the fur industry in Kansas. He published a bulletin on the fur-bearing animals of the state, in hopes that he might stimulate the development of a fur industry within her borders. He laid especial emphasis upon the value of the skunk as a fur bearer, designating it the most important fur animal living below the arctic regions. While he brought down upon himself the jibes of those wits who are always ready to poke fun at the accomplishments of others without danger of retaliation, he was successful in starting a fur-farming movement in Kansas. His second and last report contains quite a lengthy list of persons to whom licenses have been issued to conduct skunk farms, and mention of a few applicants for license to raise mink.

Last but not least, he secured the passage of a new code of game laws by the legislature of 1911. This code and the modifications which were passed by the legislature of 1913 presented his views upon the subject. It is among the best of its kind in the country.

Professor Dyche, then, by his unselfish devotion to his University and to his state, has left behind him a monument of his own erection which will secure for him a name, not only in the world of science, but also in the annals of those who have made that realm usually designated pure science a servant of man in the field of applied science in the best sense of that term.

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